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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application Ser. No.: 09/335,608

Group Art Unit: 2663

Filing Date: 06/18/1999

Examiner: SOON D. HYUN

Attorney Docket Number PHB 34 257

Inventor Name(s): MOULSLEY

Title: TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM WITH CHANNEL SHARING

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Sir:

The Examiner called the undersigned on March 1 with a question regarding the definition of the term "time slot" in the claim. The Examiner said that the term was too broad and could mean anything, which could make it read on the prior art.

In response to this concern, Applicant made some inquiries and called the Examiner back on March 4, 2005, with the following information and arguments.

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Applicant uncovered a definition on the Internet of the term "time slot." This definition is from the website of the National Institute for Telecommunication Sciences in Boulder, Colorado, which is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, of which the United States Patent and Trademark Office is also a part. This definition is at http://glossary.its.bldrdoc.gov/fs-1037/dir-037/_5477.htm and is reproduced as follows:

time slot

time slot: 1. Period of time during which certain activities are governed by specific regulations. [JP1] 2. A time interval that can be recognized and uniquely defined. (188)

This HTML version of FS-1037C was last generated on Fri Aug 23 00:22:38 MDT 1996

From this definition, it can be seen that, while the term "time slot" may mean different things in different technical contexts, within a given technical context it always has a well-defined meaning. Thus it might mean something different in TDMA and UTMS, but, given a specific accused infringing device or process, its meaning will be unambiguous. Applicant accordingly respectfully submits that the terminology does distinguish patentably over the art.

The Examiner replied that he had decided to issue an office action, to which Applicant could respond with whatever arguments or amendments were necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

By *A. E. Barschall*
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March 4, 2005